



City of Santa Barbara  
Fire Prevention Bureau  
**Automatic Fire Sprinkler Requirements**

This information sheet is to make you aware of the enhanced automatic fire sprinkler requirements adopted under Municipal Code 8.04, Ordinance #5535, as part of the City's amendments to the 2010 California Fire Code.

**New Construction:** The enhanced sections will require approved fire sprinklers in all new construction, including single family residences and duplexes.

Exception: Detached utility buildings ("U" Occupancies) less than 5000 square feet, or less than 500 square feet in the high fire hazard areas.

**Additions, Alterations**

**Commercial:** Approved automatic fire sprinklers will be required throughout the building when:

- There is an addition to any building other than a single family residence (R-3 Occupancy)
- A remodel involves greater than 50% of the existing floor area of the structure
- A change in the occupancy use to a higher hazard classification.

**Residential:** Approved automatic fire sprinklers will be required when:

- An addition or remodel exceeds 75% of the existing floor area of the structure.

**Floor Area Computation** Square footage computations are per the 2010 California Building Code in accordance with Section 1002.1, "Floor Area, Gross".

**Aggregate** Floor area computations shall be counted in the aggregate for both commercial and residential remodels / additions from the effective date of this ordinance.

\*NFPA does not allow for partially sprinklered buildings.

Questions about these requirements may be directed to the Santa Barbara City Fire Department, **Fire Prevention Bureau**, at **805-564-5702**. Please also see our website at:  
<http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Government/Departments/Fire/>